



Front St. Improvement Project Project Details

City of Wilmington North Carolina • December, 2009

The Front Street Improvement Project will begin on Monday, January 4. The information below provides downtown stakeholders some details about what will be happening as the project gets underway.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This \$1.83 million joint project between the City and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority will replace aging water and sewer lines - more than 100 years old in some cases - and enhance the streetscape with new sidewalks, crosswalks and landscaping to encourage more pedestrians to visit and enjoy our downtown. The contractor, T.A. Loving of Goldsboro, N.C., will begin work on Monday, January 4, and is expected to complete the project by July 30, 2010.

The project runs along North Front Street from Market Street to Chestnut Street, including work within those intersections. The first phase of the project will involve the block between Market and Princess streets. This is expected to wrap up in April. The second phase involves the block between Princess and Chestnut streets and is expected to wrap up by the end of July, 2010.

ROAD CLOSURES

Beginning at 6 a.m. on Monday, January 4, Front Street will be closed between Market and Princess streets (the 00 block) as well as a portion of the block between Market and Dock streets. The closure of the portion of Front Street between Market and Dock is expected to last approximately one month. The closure of the block between Market and Princess streets is expected to last approximately three months. Portions of the Market and Princess Street intersections will remain open for traffic.

PARKING

The construction fence in the block of Front Street between Market and Princess streets will be erected beginning at 6 a.m. on Monday, January 4. All cars must be removed from on-street spaces on this block prior to this time. During construction, there will be no on-street parking available on this block (and respectively on the second block during the second phase of construction). All downtown visitors and employees are encouraged to utilize the Market Street parking deck. There will be ample signage around the construction site directing motorists to park in the decks.

SIGNAGE

In addition to the traffic control signs that will be installed by the contractor, the city will install a number of signs in and around the project area to promote the project, assist with wayfinding, and remind people that businesses are open.

SIDEWALKS AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Sidewalks will remain open throughout the project. New sidewalks will be installed in segments; each segment will be inaccessible for a few hours, but we will work with businesses to schedule the sidewalk installation at a time that is most convenient. All roads will remain open except for the one-block construction area on Front Street. One lane will remain open in the two intersections where construction is occurring as well.

PLUMBING INSPECTIONS FOR AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS

If you own property in the two-block construction area and have not already done so, we ask that you have the water and sewer pipes on your property inspected by a licensed plumber. This inspection is important because the pipes coming into your building need to be strong enough to make a solid connection to the new pipes. Pipes in this area can date back 100 years or more and may be made of cast iron or clay, so it is important to have them evaluated before the project gets underway. The attached letter that was mailed to affected property owners in October has more information.

ADVERTISING

The city and CFPUA will be running ads promoting downtown and downtown parking throughout the course of the project. The ads will run on local network TV and TimeWarner cable beginning in mid-January.

EVENTS WEEK OF JAN. 4

The city and CFPUA will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the intersection of Front and Market streets. All downtown merchants and residents are invited to attend. Additionally, WDI (Wilmington Downtown Inc.) will be hosting a “meet the contractor” session on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 4 p.m. with the project manager from T.A. Loving in attendance. The meeting will take place at the WDI offices on the 2nd floor of Chandelers Wharf.

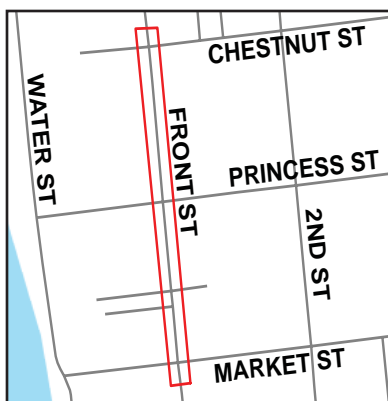
PROJECT UPDATES

The City is coordinating both the water and sewer and streetscape improvements and will make every effort to keep downtown stakeholders up to date throughout construction.

As new information becomes available, we will update the project website (www.wilmingtonnc.gov/frontstreet), notify merchants via email, and post information at a designated location on Front Street.

For more information, feel free to contact Dylan Lee, City Project Liaison, at 341-4675.

We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to complete this project as quickly as possible and with as little disruption as possible to downtown stakeholders.



wilmingtonnc.gov/frontstreet